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I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS CORRESPONDENCE IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO: MAIL STOP _____, COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450, ON THE DATE INDICATED BELOW:

BY: Handwritten signature

DATE: May 27, 2003

PATENT

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In Re: Patent Application of : Group Art Unit: 1637
Clark Rundell *et al.* :
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Appl. No.: 09/866,283 : Examiner: Teresa E. Strzelecka
:
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Filed: May 25, 2001 :
:
For: COMPOSITIONS AND METHODS: Attorney Docket
RELATING TO NUCLEIC ACID : No.: 053650-5001
REFERENCE STANDARDS :

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AMENDMENT

This Amendment responds to the Office Action dated November 27, 2002 (Paper No. 9), sent in connection with the above-referenced application.

This Amendment is being timely filed in view of the accompanying Petition for a Three Month Extension of Time, and associated fee, which extends the time for a response to the Office Action to and through May 27, 2003.

Kindly amend the application as follows:

In the Specification:

Please delete the paragraph commencing on page 23, line 20, and ending on page 24, line 6, and insert the following paragraph in place thereof:

-- The determination of percent identity between two nucleotide or amino acid sequences can be accomplished using a mathematical algorithm. For example, a mathematical algorithm useful for comparing two sequences is the algorithm of Karlin and Altschul (1990, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 87:2264-2268), modified as in Karlin and Altschul (1993, Proc. Natl. Acad. Sci. USA 90:5873-5877). This algorithm is incorporated into the NBLAST and XBLAST programs of Altschul, et al. (1990, J. Mol. Biol. 215:403-410), and can be accessed, for example,